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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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Early adopters of EVs want to showcase progressive and environmentally-conscious self-image and perceive themselves as trendsetters influencing decisions of others: Study

GREEN PERSONA

Tech and environment enthusiasts are most likely to take to electric 2-wheelers

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

So what makes one an electric two-wheeler user? Social image, it would seem. According to a study by Indian Institute of Science (IISc) that and environmental and technological enthusiasm are the major factors influencing buyers of electrical two-wheelers.

Researchers at IISc conducted a study amongst potential buyers and recent buyers to understand the factors influencing the adoption of EV two-wheelers. The analysis of the study was based on responses submitted by 1,375 potential electric two-wheeler buyers from Bengaluru.

The study was published in a paper titled 'Consumer Intention to Accept Electric Two-wheelers in India: A Valence Theory Approach to Unveil the Role of Identity and Utility by Furqan A Bhat and Ashish Verma.

Two-wheelers account for more than 70 per cent of total EVs and only 7.5 per cent own four-wheelers. Yet the adoption rates of electric two-wheeler vehicles remain low for a developing country.

To understand the factors impacting the behaviour of EV two-wheeler

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

TAKE A SEAT

Metro users urge BMRCL to make adequate seating arrangements on Majestic station platforms

PAGE 8

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*Starts to work in 15 minutes [Wilson et al, 1982, PMID: 6980501; Wong et al, 2001, PMID: 11824173]. Creative visualization. *When used as directed/always read the label before use. Trademarks are owned by or licensed to the GSK group of companies.
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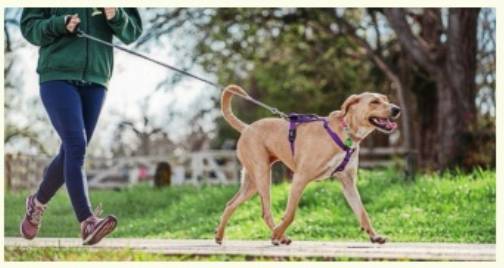
3 THINGS TO DO

01 Antique shopping

If you are a fan of the art of wicker cane weaving, visit this exhibition at a furniture showroom that has sofa sets in Teak and Rosewood, coffee tables, side stands, cabinets, chairs and a lot more on sale with discounts of up to 20% on select pieces.
Where: Antique Home decor, Whitefield
When: September 20 to September 30



02 Tails & trails

If you are a pet lover, then join the Woof-Friendly Run conducted by Shriram Properties in association with The Bengaluru Marathon. A 5-km run not only for passionate runners but also for their pets. A heartwarming celebration of runners and their furry friends. This collective initiative aims to raise awareness about pet well-being
Where- Shriram Pristine Estates in Doddaballapura Main Road, Bengaluru
When- September 30, 6:30 am
Register - https://forms.gle/pYmUJRuhuhVo9C9i6

03 Bake sale for a cause

If you believe, the joy of baking mingles with the joy of giving, join the bake and sale event for supporting children fighting cancer.
Milaap is teaming up with the Ovenderful Mom Bakers Community (OMBC), to host a special

bake sale to raise awareness on Paediatric Cancer Awareness Month. The initiative will involve OMBC members donating their delicious baked goods and selling them in a well-known cultural hub in the city. **Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar, Bangalore; When: September 24, Sunday, 12 noon to 8 pm**

Investors demand justice

Hundreds of people from rural parts of Karnataka and the ciy protested at Freedom Park on Friday, demanding relief from the government after losing their money in private investment schemes and chit funds. The protesters have demanded that the government investigate fraudulent financial schemes run by several private companies and individuals and bring justice to the people who have lost their money

A new lingo: Students are taking to Chinese

BCU to hire native teachers, as foreign languages open doors to better job prospects, scholarships, and cultural enrichment

Indian students learn Chinese for cultural experiences and academic opportunities, while IT sector for global market

Despite simmering anger against Chinese products, there is a surprise increase in people learning Chinese in Bengaluru. According to Bangalore City University (BCU), there has been more than 30 per cent demand to learn Chinese among students than before due to China's economic prominence and global influence. Other than Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, and Portuguese are the most popular choices among students and professionals in Bangalore.

"Indian students in arts and culture choose to learn Chinese for cultural experiences and academic opportunities, while those in the IT sector opt for it to thrive in the global market. The decision has been made to hire a native teacher from a foreign country for language instruction. This arrangement will bring valuable benefits to both students and Indian instructors, as it will provide an authentic insight into the culture of that country, leading to a deeper understanding and enhanced learning experience," said Dr Jyoti Venkatesh, Dean of the Centre for Global Language, BCU.

"Alongside French and German, Chinese offers valuable advantages in the arts, culture, and IT sectors. With China's growing global influence in technology, trade, and entertainment, mastering Chinese provides a competitive edge in today's interconnected world. Understanding the Chinese language and culture unlocks numerous educational and employment prospects in a country known for its rich heritage, dynamic economy, and global presence," said Somya M B, Studying German at BCU.

There has been a significant increase in the number of students and professionals learning Spanish. "Indian students and professionals are enticed by the US, lured by a world-class education, advanced research facilities, cutting-edge technologies, diverse careers, global networking, cultural exposure, and personal growth. The US has a high demand for software engineers, attracting many professionals from India," said Dr Jyoti. The demand for the German language is increasing because of its importance for employment and educational opportunities in Germany and other European countries. "The German language has seen a significant rise in popularity, with a 60-70 per cent increase in students," said Lizzy Wilson, HoD & Assistant Professor of the German Department at Mount Carmel College.

> **"Alongside French and German, Chinese offers advantages in arts, culture, IT sectors**
> – Dr Jyoti Venkatesh, BCU

"On the other hand, enthusiastic French learners outnumber those who pursue it for professional aspirations at a ratio of 4:1. Since 2019, the number of students choosing these languages has soared from 130 to 250, reflecting their growing appeal," said Dr Poulami Paul, HoD and Assistant Professor of the French Department. While German attracts students in India due to its practical benefits and ease of learning, French is often favoured for its aesthetic appeal rather than its career opportunities. "Increasing interest in language-related professions is driven by the recognition of lucrative career prospects.

Learning the language opens doors to better job prospects, scholarships, and enhanced opportunities. For instance, Canada requires French proficiency, while lucrative markets in countries like Germany prioritise language skills, and to work in the Chinese Market, Chinese acquaintance is important," Satyasree, French Professor for UG at St. Joseph's College

At Bangalore City University (BCU) there also has been an increasing demand for Japanese. "With Japan's ageing population and the need for young professionals, there is a rising demand for individuals fluent in Japanese. Indian professionals are learning the language to enhance job prospects and improve their quality of life. Japan aims to recruit over three lakh professionals from India to address their low employment rates, offering increased opportunities for Indian individuals.", said Arbin M, Studying Japanese at BCU.

— Esita Rani Mandal

Drinking is injurious to drivers' health

Police intensify alcohol testing for road accident accused, victims

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The Bengaluru city police have recently initiated investigations into whether individuals involved in accidents had alcohol before they took the wheel. This proactive step comes in response to a concerning rise in accidents, particularly those caused by alcohol impairment.

Officials have confirmed that both the accused parties and victims of road accidents are now being subjected to medical tests to determine if they were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident.

Notably, the city police have discovered that in 22 accident cases, the accused had consumed alcohol, and in four cases, even the accident victims were found to be under the influence of alcohol.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MN Anucheth explained the primary objective of this initiative. "Our main goal is to ensure that anyone driving under the influence of alcohol does not evade consequences. To raise awareness about this issue, we are now subjecting both the accused and victims to medical tests to determine whether they had consumed alcohol," he said.

The police have investigated 131 fatal accidents within the city. They have conducted medical tests on approximately 437 accused and victims, with 22 testing positive for alcohol intoxication at the time of the accident. The results of an additional 50 medical tests are still pending. In cases where a person is accused of drunk driving resulting in a fatality, they are charged under IPC 304A. Following a thorough investigation, a chargesheet is submitted in court. As per current rules, individuals caught driving under the influence of alcohol are liable to pay a fine of Rs 10,000 or serve a six-month jail sentence. The police are emphasising on the importance of avoiding drunken driving to prevent such tragic incidents.

On the spot

A police official highlighted a change in procedure, noting that previously, drivers involved in fatal accidents were taken to the police station and then subjected to medical tests. Some individuals who had consumed alcohol might have escaped charges due to the time gap. To address this, the police now use alcometers on the spot, providing an immediate assessment of alcohol levels.

The police also revealed that they conduct an annual analysis of the factors contributing to accidents. Previously, limited information was available regarding alcohol use in accidents.

Hence, the decision was made to conduct medical tests in all fatal and non-fatal accident cases to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the role of alcohol in such incidents.

HC on approval to licence plate makers

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday directed the State government to notify a time-bound process to be followed by vehicle manufacturers to grant approval to licence plate makers across the board.

The Bench of Justice BM Shyam Prasad was hearing a batch of petitions including one by the High Security Registration Plate Manufacturers Association which has alleged that only a select group of High Security Registration Plate (HSRP) manufacturers have been given approval to make them.

The court said that the approval process should be time-bound as the state has notified that all vehicles registered prior to April 1, 2019 should have the new licence plates within 90 days.

The court has however refused to stay the State government's notification which was sought in the petitions.

The notification mandates that all vehicles registered before April 1, 2019 should be fixed with HSRPs. The State government's notification in August mandates all such vehicles to have HSRPs by November 17, 2023; i.e 90 days from the notification.

The petition had contended that though there were 20 manufactures recognised by the Centre, only four were given approval for implementing HSRPs in the State. The State government contended that licence plate manufacturers were approved by the vehicle manufacturers and it was their exclusive scheme. **PTI**

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How about a dream farmhouse?

Why Bengalureans are opting to invest in a space of their own to unwind and enjoy in

For many Bengalureans, the weekend is synonymous with travel and relaxation. However, a recent trend has emerged where citizens are opting for farmhouses in nearby districts as their weekend retreats. Sandesh Raj, a tech professional, shares, "After a hectic week at the office, we all yearn for some relaxation. So, my friends and I invested in properties in nearby districts where we can unwind on weekends. Thanks to well-maintained highways, we can reach our farmhouses in just a few hours, making these weekend getaways increasingly popular."

A local realtor adds, "These farmhouses offer a range of amenities, including sports and fitness facilities, outdoor gyms, clubhouses, swimming pools, kids' playgrounds, and meditation centers. Activities like planting and cultivation are also available, with ample assistance from the local community. This makes it an attractive and affordable option for weekend retreats."

Meanwhile, many are buying plots as demand for villas has grown. According to the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), the villas being constructed in Hunnigere near Nelamangala have received high demand from customers even before the applications were invited. The officials claim that the demand for ready-made houses is higher than that for BDA apartments or plots.

In the previous project, 452 villas built in Alur were sold, and similarly, 243 villas have been constructed in Hunnigere, with hundreds of customers regularly visiting the houses while they were still under construction.

A BDA official stated, "The construction of the villas has been completed, with only minor works still pending. We have said before that the target is to distribute the villas to the public in June.

The project spans 31 acres in Hunnigere off Tumakuru Road, costing a total of Rs 271.46 crore. There are 152 3-BHK houses costing Rs 73 lakh each, 170 4-BHK houses with prices up to Rs 1.1 crore per villa, and 320 1-BHK houses in the apartment complex built for the economy class with a cost of Rs 13.50 lakh per house."

The area under construction is fenced with barbed wire and includes 6-metre-wide roads, a 5 lakh square feet garden, basketball and cricket playgrounds, a children's playground, a 600 KLD STP unit, a 1.5 lakh litre drinking water overhead tank (OHT), a 1.5 lakh litre capacity sump, and ten tube wells with pumps and pipe connections. Ten tube wells are planned to be connected to rainwater harvesting models and pipeline connections. Various parking arrangements are being made to facilitate the parking of residents' vehicles.

An area of 2640 square meters has been earmarked for open parking, and 5827.75 square metre for basement parking. Additionally, the officials have arranged for EV charging to facilitate the charging of eco-friendly electric vehicles. The three-story apartment with 320 flats of one BHK (EWS) constructed by BDA at Hunnigere has also been completed and is ready for public allotment. **–Prakash VL**

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Make your flat Vastu compliant

Buying a flat or an apartment or renting out a flat, you should look for Vastu for flat aspects as it changes one's life. Vastu for flats is something that finds its roots in the ancient architectural and religious texts. In the present scenario, constructing or building a house from scratch will be challenging. So, many people purchase finished flats to cope with their busy schedules and the budget.

According to the Vastu for flats, the essential rule to be followed while constructing or building a house is to fix its orientation. A home is oriented in 8 directions–4 cardinal directions and four corner zones. Vaastu Shastra for a flat is an ancient science or guide which shows which item or idol should be positioned.

Tips for Vastu for Flats

1. Entrance

The East and northeast side is usually favoured for the entrance of a flat. According to Vastu Shastra for flats, the presence of the entrance in such directions attracts positive energies, peace, and good luck.

2. Apartments with Common Walls

According to Vastu Shastra, having a common shared wall between you and your neighbouring apartment may bring a possibility of assorted energies to enter your house. In such a case, you should avoid a flat with a common sharing wall as it brings failure and negative energies to your life.

3. Sunlight And Ventilation

Natural light holds great importance in Vastu Shastra. As sunlight is considered a source of positivity, Vastu Shastra for a flat prefers the presence of a window and your balcony in the north or east zone. Morning sunlight is also beneficial for health and peace of mind.

4. Kitchen

The kitchen room is always an integral part. According to Vastu Shastra for flats, the southeast corner of your flat is usually preferable for the kitchen. The southeast direction must be chosen for positioning the gas or stove.

5. Bedroom

The presence of the bedroom in the east and southeast directions might trigger anxiety and conflict as per Vastu for flats.

6. Toilet

According to Vastu Shastra, the presence of the bathroom between the north and northeast directions is not recommended for a flat, as it might affect the immunity of a person. According to Vastu shastra, the number of doors and windows is recommended as an even number of doors and windows for each floor.

Times Property

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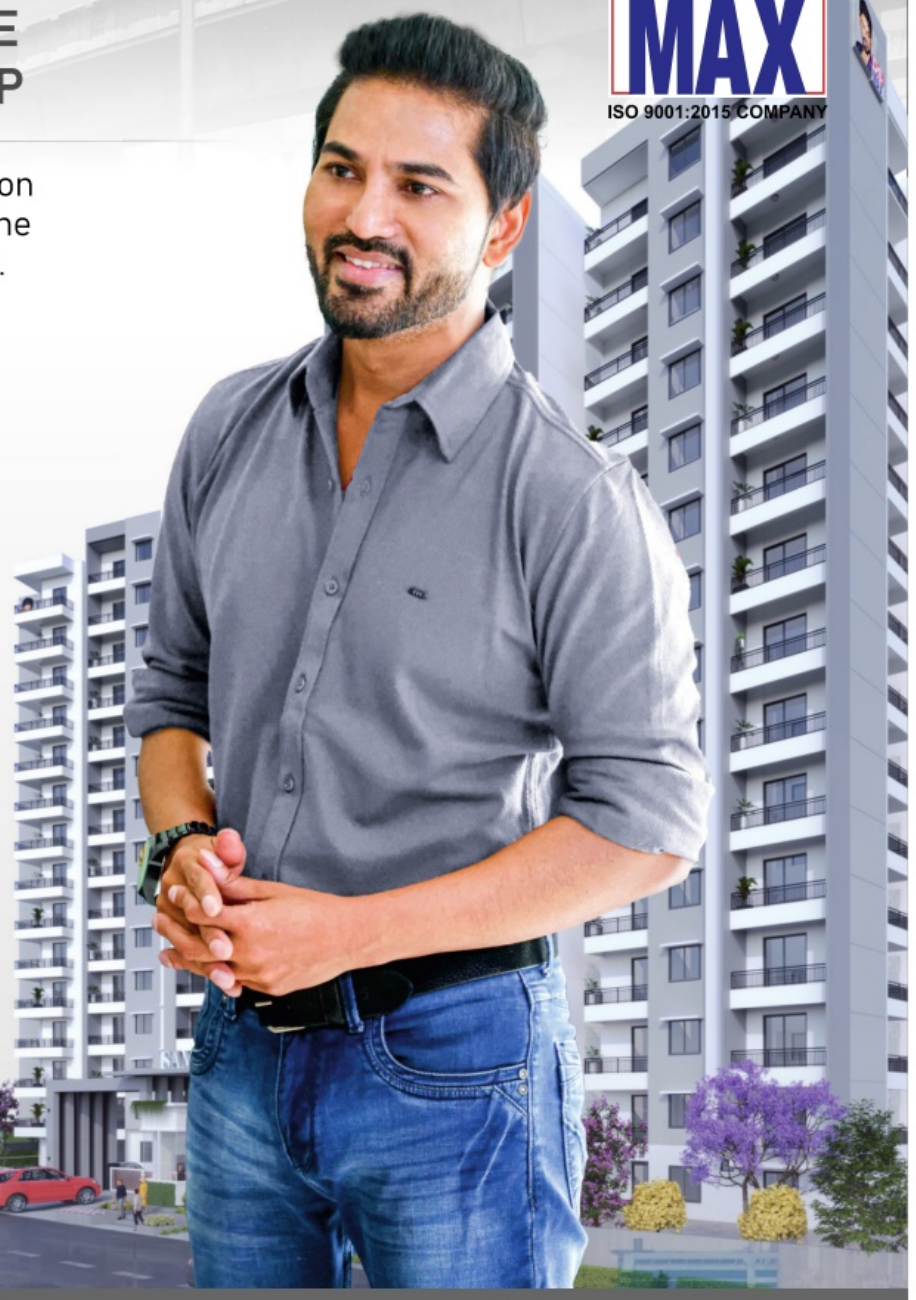

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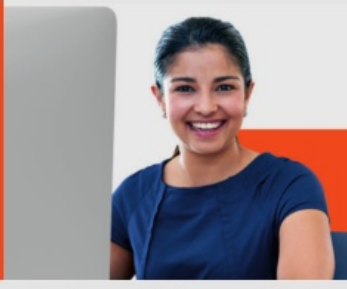

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REARVIEW MIRROR

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Love in the time of climate chaos

One should not be surprised why teenagers or twenty-somethings of the day are devoid of hope: they project deep resentment and resignation most often, especially sifting through the digital muck to glean what's actually going on — as thundering typhoons, devastating deluges, raging wildfires, cloudbursts that disintegrate entire settlements, ocean swells that kill people in their thousands when lawmakers and neoliberal industrialists squabble over obsolete geopolitics and dwindling revenue of big tech that serve no humane purpose whatsoever.

As we retreat back into our love islands in pairs or small communities that harbour anything but love for thy neighbour, risking that imminent storm that shall no doubt sink our tiny island retreat, most of the world is left wanting empathy, compassion and love that shall ease the passing of this catastrophe of gargantuan scale — disasters which may strike in any geography that we have no way to predict or gauge even with the sophisticated tools of tech that we immerse ourselves in day in day out; lost we are nevertheless and visibly disconnected from what made us a potentially pacifist human collective not so long ago as the gospels and scriptures go.

In the digital arena, compassion seems like a distant oasis in the loveless desert, left behind at an afterparty post human excesses of yore — in the decades that we inherited at the turn of the century.

And yet, the posturing is almost insufferable — on all fronts, especially the digital sort, as though we have collectively decided it shall suffice to cover up the deceit that is holding up the vast enterprise built upon immeasurable toil of billions who are now left on the wayside awaiting the aftermath of the emergency of a lifetime as the countable few billionaires call it a wrap, pack up and ready to leave for outer space. Sigh.

So why is love that is rationed post after post on social media seemingly not manifesting in the physical realm where it is needed the most? For instance, where is the much needed lifeline for those fleeing civil war torn conflict zones and the fallout of the climate crisis amid diminishing clout of international humanitarian agencies?

The self lost in the digital distraction for almost two decades now is surely to blame for the ruination of humanness that is to be found nowhere when only humanness in all socio-political spheres would help tide over the climate emergency. What a damning timing for the digital revolution to rob us of the qualities that are most required when the entire collective is facing a wipeout of sorts in the near immediate future.

The nature of so-called art and culture now being dictated by the digital complex, more or less explains the aforesaid decline of humanity's ethos and blatant disregard for what makes us human — evident in the depreciation of art and culture in the short period of time that tech, the social kind if you like, evolved into what it is.

The self-proclaimed billionaire champions that are perpetuating the hellish soulless trajectory humanity is apparently turning to in its othering of the majority comfortably overlook the diabolic mutation of the collective character that has the society in a stranglehold thanks to the gazillion handheld devices we are busy with, selling our souls too in the process.

For example, when access to healthcare still remains a distant reality in parts of the so-called global south, the digital complex has teenagers trapped in social media — as instances of depression and other psychological disorders manifest while organic human relationships suffer in these digital echo chambers. Empathy, love and compassion - even the human touch and embrace - risk decline as society seeks direction from mobile phones.

Two decades on, an audit of the digital status quo is long overdue - especially on the backdrop of the challenges that lay ahead.

Can we just halt businesses for a few years and subsidise the most vulnerable communities with a minimal share of revenue amassed? At the outset this may sound bizarre, for the rich and powerful of course, and the politicians that prop them up, but unless an array of radical steps like the aforementioned aren't adopted on a war footing the outlook is bleak, or no doubt doom is assured for even the most powerful. The sooner we halt and make such a seminal course-correction in our minuscule history the better.

The aberration or tear in the social fabric tech is rendering at the behest of personal data miners shall prove to be a mountainous obstacle in the way of achieving parity.

So perhaps, sans tech, we must rethink love, compassion and brotherhood in these calamitous times than squabble over the lives of vulnerable billions on the run to sustain themselves unaware of the uncertainties nonetheless.

Powerplay: What's with the diminishing supply?

CM cautions power generation companies against using wet coal in thermal stations; asks them to install solar-powered pump sets

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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Finally, the State Government has acknowledged the pressing power crisis within the State. During an Energy Department review meeting on Friday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah voiced his concerns about the declining power supply capacity.

Currently, Karnataka boasts a power generation capacity of 32,009 MW. However, the stark reality remains that despite the soaring demand, there has been no significant increase in power generation capacity.

Siddaramaiah took exception on Friday by stating, "When I first became Chief Minister in the 2013-14 financial year, our power generation stood at 14,048 MW. By 2017-18, it had risen to 27,780 MW. Yet, here we are in 2023, with power generation still at 32,009 MW. This clearly indicates that our power generation has not kept pace with the growing demand."

However, the officials had a different explanation. They attributed the dip in power generation to the poor quality of coal used. One official explained, "We rely on the Centre for coal supplies to burn in our thermal stations. Unfortunately, for the past few years, we have been receiving substandard coal that has negatively impacted power generation. Despite bringing this to the Centre's attention, no action has been taken. We have also requested an allocation of two additional coal supply rakes per day. Additionally, we are in the process of floating tenders to import higher-quality coal from other countries."

Siddaramaiah stressed the need to enhance power supply within the State and cautioned power generation companies against using wet coal in thermal stations. The meeting also addressed the installation of solar-powered pump sets for irrigation, a move that could save significant power, reduce transmission loss, and curb the use of illegal pump sets.

In addition, the State Government allocated Rs 1,400 crore to power companies to provide free power under the Gruha Jyothi scheme, benefitting 1.26 crore households in August and 1.35 crore in September. Another pressing concern is the mounting losses incurred by distribution companies. The Chief Minister directed the ESCOMs to minimise energy losses and expand the deployment of transformers and substations. An allocation of Rs 2,500 crore has been made for the establishment of new substations across the state.

Bangalore Mirror had highlighted how it was not just a water crisis but also an impending power crisis looming over the State due to poor rainfall. Normally, power shortages are experienced during the summer months, but this year, the crisis has emerged during the rainy season, raising concerns about the potential consequences if this trend persists into the upcoming summer. According to sources, the energy department is compelled to procure power from outside the state, resulting in a whopping daily expenditure of Rs 40 to Rs 50 crore solely for purchasing electricity. Typically, during the rainy season, the state's power demand fluctuates between 9,000 to 11,000 MW per day. However, surprisingly, this year, the power demand has surged to a record-breaking 16,000 MW per day, marking an unprecedented increase of 4,000 to 5,000 MW per day. To break down the power generation sources, approximately 2,000 MW is produced by thermal stations, 1,800 MW is generated by hydel stations, 4,500 to 5,000 MW comes from solar sources, 250 to 500 MW from wind energy, and the state needs to procure 4,500 to 7,000 MW from the central grid.

> **We rely on Centre for coal supply. For the past few years, we have been receiving substandard coal**
>
> –Thermal power station official

Kumaraswamy meets Shah, Nadda as JD(S) joins hands with BJP

In a boost to the BJP in Karnataka ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Janada Dal (Secular) has decided to ally with the party following a meeting of its leader H D Kumaraswamy with Home Minister Amit Shah and party president JP Nadda.

After the meeting, Nadda said on X, "I am happy that JD(S) has decided to be the part of National Democratic Alliance. We wholeheartedly welcome them in the NDA. This will further strengthen NDA and vision of Hon PM Narendra Modi Ji for 'New India, Strong India'."

Shah was present in the meeting.

Headed by former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, the JD(S) has long been a strong third player in the southern state where the Congress and the BJP have been the two main parties. The regional party came third in the recent assembly polls in the state, where the Congress scored a big win.

> **BJP feels alliance can help it ahead of 2024 LS polls as JD(S) has influence in the South**

The BJP, which heads the NDA, believes an alliance with the JD(S) will ensure its domination in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as the regional party enjoys considerable influence in south Karnataka where the saffron party has traditionally been weak. **PTI**

Take cover against dengue

City doctors suggest schools allow girl students also to wear trousers instead of skirts; highlight recent spike in dengue among children

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Amid a rise in dengue cases among schoolchildren, doctors are recommending that schools take additional measures to control the spread of vector-borne diseases. In addition to these recommendations, doctors also suggest that schools should reconsider their dress codes, particularly for girls, by allowing them to wear full pants instead of skirts.

Kalavathi D, a concerned parent, shared her experience, stating, "While my son is permitted to wear full pants, my daughter is required to wear skirts. During the current dengue season, I tried to have her wear leggings for added protection, but the school insisted on the mandatory skirt. Now, my daughter is hospitalised with dengue. While I don't solely blame the school, wearing a skirt could expose her skin to mosquito bites."

Supporting the call from concerned parents, Dr Parimala V Thirumalesh, Senior Consultant in Neonatology and Paediatrics at Aster CMI Hospital, emphasised the importance of children wearing long-sleeved clothes and trousers.

Dr Thirumalesh stated, "Schools should conduct regular health check-ups, closely monitor symptoms in children, and take preventive measures. These include adding mesh to classroom windows, regular cleaning of water storage areas, educating children on cleanliness and the proper disposal of waste, and raising awareness about dengue prevention in the community."

Schools should lessen outdoor activities during mosquito hours

> **Schools should conduct regular health check-ups, closely monitor symptoms in children, and take preventive measures**
> -Dr Thirumalesh

Dr Krishna Prasad, a consultant paediatrician at Motherhood Hospitals in Electronic City, said, "School administrators typically make decisions regarding school dress codes in consultation with parents, considering various factors such as tradition, aesthetics, and cultural norms. The recommendation to modify dress codes stems from the necessity for students to protect themselves from mosquito bites, as dengue mosquitoes often target exposed skin. While schools have traditionally mandated that girls wear skirts as part of their uniform, doctors argue that this practice makes them more susceptible to mosquito bites. Full-length pants or leggings provide better protection by covering the legs entirely."

This simple change can significantly reduce the risk of mosquito bites and, consequently, the transmission of dengue fever. Allowing girls to wear pants or leggings enables schools to take a proactive role in safeguarding the health and well-being of their students. Additionally, there is a condition known as dengue-like illness, where the dengue test may yield negative results, but clinically, the child exhibits symptoms resembling dengue. Therefore, consulting a doctor for a definitive diagnosis is advisable, added Dr Prasad.

Dr Dinesh Kamath, an internal medicine consultant at Manipal Hospital in Malleswaram, highlighted the recent increase in dengue cases among children and young adults in the city, attributing it to the Aedes aegypti mosquito. He advised school authorities to promptly drain standing water in and around school premises to minimise mosquito breeding sites.

Dr Kamath also stressed the importance of advising children to rest at home, increase fluid intake, consult a doctor, and undergo necessary tests if dengue is suspected.

Furthermore, Dr Prasad noted that in recent weeks, there have been seven to eight dengue cases per week in Bengaluru, with some cases presenting with severe symptoms and requiring hospitalisation. To address this issue and prevent further infections, schools should prioritise maintaining clean, mosquito-free environments as a preventive measure against dengue fever. Implementing measures such as mosquito nets in classrooms, educating students about personal protective measures, encouraging long-sleeved clothing, and adjusting outdoor activity schedules during peak mosquito hours are essential steps taken to reduce the risk of dengue fever.

Mysterious deaths of Spotted Deer at BBP

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The death toll of spotted deer at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) is a concerning situation as the death toll of spotted deer within the park has risen to 22. While BBP registered 17 deer deaths till September 20, four deer succumbed to bacterial infection on September 21 (Thursday) and one more died on September 22, taking the total death toll to 22.

"While two more deer died on Thursday late at night due to abdominal diseases (hemorrhagic enteritis and endocarditis), one more passed away on Friday. We had recovered 37 deer from St John's hospital and 15 are now surviving. They are under observation and are on antibiotic treatment. We need to wait for a couple of days to say confidently that they are showing signs of recovery," said AV Surya Sen, deputy conservator of forests and executive director of BBP.

The herd of 37 deer was relocated to BBP from St John's Hospital premises in August by the Karnataka Forest Department. As per the officials from BBP, the first set of five deer died in August due to injuries from infighting, the rest of them died over the past four days due to bacterial infection.

On the other hand, recently seven leopard cubs died at BBP due to a feline virus outbreak. Following these events, the park administration has put strict containment protocols in place to prevent further spread.

"The virus is under control and no new infections or deaths have been reported over the last few weeks. We are observing all the cats and they appear to be uninfected. However, we still have strict sanitation and sterilisation protocols to avoid any further spread of the virus," added Sen.

IN BRIEF

Schools win fire safety battle

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday allowed a petition by 22 private schools that had challenged the November 10 2020, and the subsequent March 10, 2021 circulars issued by the state Education Department regarding fire safety in school buildings.

Justice Ashok S Kinagi, while allowing the petitions, stated that the circulars are not applicable to state syllabus schools in operation before the issuance of the directives in 2020-21.

The petitioners, including Pragna Education Society and Ravindra Bharathi Vidya Samsthe, and 20 others had argued that the notification was in violation of the Karnataka Education Act 1983. -PTI

Cauvery protests: Security upped

Amid protests in several parts of the state, including Bengaluru, over the ongoing Cauvery water dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the city's police force has increased security measures, particularly in Tamil-dominated areas.

These precautions were taken after protests erupted following the Supreme Court decision yesterday to not interfere with the order of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee according to which Karnataka must release 5,000 cusecs of water per day to Tamil Nadu.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda held meetings with his subordinates and instructed all the deputy commissioners of police in the city to be on high alert and step up security in their respective jurisdictions especially in Tamil-dominated areas to avoid any untoward incident.

Soon after the Supreme Court verdict on the Cauvery issue, several organisations took to the streets in Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka to register their protest. On Friday too, protests were staged by various outfits in some areas of the city such as K R Puram.

Anticipating protests in the coming days as well, the police chief has directed all deputy commissioners of police to take necessary steps to maintain law and order.

A senior police official said that the officers have been asked to tighten security measures in their respective jurisdictions based on intelligence reports about possible protests and violence in the coming days due to the Cauvery River water dispute. Farmer organisations and pro-Kannada groups may stage protests at various places which may lead to traffic congestion and inconvenience to the public at large. "Officers have been instructed to ensure that no incident of stone pelting takes place on any Tamil Nadu registered buses or private vehicles," he said.

Farmer organisations and pro-Kannada outfits staged protests in Cauvery river basin districts like Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagara and Ramanagara expressing their anger and urging the state government not to release water to the neighbouring state.

Protests have also spread to other districts including Chitradurga, Ballari, Davangere, Koppal and Vijayapura. -PTI

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Comfy wait: Seat appeal

Metro commuters call on BMRCL for improved seating at Majestic station platforms aiming to offer comfort to senior citizens, pregnant women, others

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While other metro stations have enough seating arrangements, Majestic station needs to be improved

Commuters of Metro have appealed to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to enhance seating facilities at Majestic station platforms, aiming to offer comfort to senior citizens, pregnant women, and others during their wait for the train.

Satish Acharya, an employee at an advertising agency in JP Nagar, said that he is required to change from the Purple line to the Green line of the metro as he resides in Vijayanagar, which requires him to wait at the Majestic station to switch trains. "The wait is sometimes as long as nine minutes. However, there are barely any chairs to sit and wait for the train. After a long day of work, before boarding onto crowded coaches, a commuter would find much relief if the metro took up measures to provide adequate seating," he said. He further said that many people with heavy baggage often travel through Majestic, making seating arrangements a dire need.

Another frequent commuter, Vasudha (name changed), said that while other metro stations have enough seating arrangements, the Majestic station needs to be improved. "I often travel from the Cubbon Park metro station, which has enough space for commuters to sit and wait for the train. However, in the Majestic station, there are only a few three-seater chairs spaced around the platform, with one right by the women's section," she explained. She said senior citizens and others who have to switch trains are already troubled with the hassle and must be provided seating until the train arrives.

> **"The wait is sometimes as long as nine minutes. However, there are barely any chairs to sit and wait for the train**
>
> –Satish Acharya, Commuter

Rekita Gulur, a pre-university student, said that the metro might have taken up the issue to prevent commuters from waiting for other passengers on the platform premises as it leads to crowding. "In other stations, too, the security personnel do not allow commuters to sit on the platform once a train arrives as it will lead to crowding. Passengers are made to board the first train that arrives," she said, adding that the BMRCL must not put the convenience of the elderly and other vulnerable groups at risk. Instead, it must increase scrutiny on those who wish to wait inside the premises or designate a dedicated space for waiting, she said. Metro runs daily at intervals of 4-5 minutes between each metro during peak hours and 9-10 minutes during non-peak hours.

From eyesore to elegance

Youth for Parivarthan, BBMP beautify yellow spot near BES Institute of Technology

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The compound wall along the footpath near BES Institute of Technology has been a persistent issue, serving as an unfortunate open urinal for irresponsible individuals. The resulting unpleasant odour and inconvenience for pedestrians necessitated a change. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Youth for Parivarthan volunteers, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) staff, and Marshals, the formerly unsightly yellow spot has been transformed into a welcoming and attractive area, enhancing the overall environment for all.

Over 75 volunteers from team Youth for Parivarthan, with support from the local MLA Office, cleaned and beautified a black-cum-yellow spot at Jayanagar 4th T Block, Bengaluru, on Sunday. The residents of the locality had escalated the issue to the MLA Office.

"We got a request from the MLA Office to help them resolve the issue by cleaning and beautifying it. We cleared the garbage with the help of BBMP, and our volunteers washed the entire stretch of wall and footpath. Then we painted the wall and beautified it with beautiful mandala art," said Youth for Parivarthan founder Amith Amarnath.

He said Central Minister Shobha Karandlaje, Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya, and Jayanagar MLA C K Ramamurthy visited the spot and appreciated the volunteers for beautifying the yellow spot.

"We also got a lot of support from the local residents. We hope that at least now the spot gets maintained," he said.

Volunteers of Youth for Parivarthan are thrilled to participate in beautifying the yellow spot. "I have been associated with Youth for Parivarthan for over nine years. I am very happy to participate in the cleaning programme," said Kaushik Dayal, treasurer of Youth for Parivarthan.

Appreciating the Youth for Parivarthan volunteers for beautifying the yellow spot, MLA C K Ramamurthy has said that the yellow spot at T Block is the fourth one to be beautified in the Jayanagar Assembly constituency. "The volunteers of Youth for Parivarthan have already beautified a black spot recently. The Ugly Indians beautified two black spots. We have decided to identify and beautify one black spot every month in future," said Ramamurthy.

Raghavendra Hebbar, a resident of Jayanagar T Block, has said the yellow spot was beautified four years ago by Youth for Parivarthan volunteers. "The spot was clean and neat for some time, but the condition of the spot came back to square one after a few months. We complained to the MLA Office about the yellow spot. Now, I am very happy to see the place clean and neat," said Raghavendra Hebbar.

Srinivas Achar, a resident of Jayanagar, has emphasised the need to beautify black or yellow spots in and around Jayanagar. "I have been residing at Jayanagar for the last 29 years. Those days, Jayanagar was clean and neat. The number of black or yellow spots is increasing due to the floating population," said Srinivas Achar.

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Roadside peril
RT Nagar

A roadside bore well has been left open for 15 days under the pretext of repairing it, posing a danger to pedestrians and motorists.

Footpath obstruction
Nehru Road

A massive wall encroachment on the footpath and road at Nehru Road is causing obstruction and inconvenience to the public.

Community distress
Sadaramangala

A damaged sewage pipe adjacent to Belathur Main Road, opposite Bollineni Silas Apartments, has been left unattended for 20 days, affecting residents in Krishna Farm Road, Sadaramangala Village.

'Power, influence and notoriety'

The Gen-Z hackers who struck MGM, Caesars

Though ransomware attacks are not new, experts say this group was especially skilled

About a year ago, the US security firm Palo Alto Networks began to hear from a flurry of companies that had been hacked in ways that weren't the norm for cybercriminals.

Native English-speaking hackers would call up a target company's information technology helpdesk posing as an employee, and seek login details by pretending to have lost theirs. They had all the employee information needed to sound convincing. And once they got access, they'd quickly find their way into the company's most sensitive repositories to steal that data for extortion.

Ransomware attacks are not new, but this group was extraordinarily skilled at social engineering and bypassing multi-factor authentication, said Wendi Whitmore, senior vice president for the security firm Palo Alto Networks' Unit 42 threat intelligence team, which has responded to several intrusions tied to the group.

"They are much more sophisticated than many cybercriminal actors. They appear to be disciplined and organized in their attacks," she said. "And that's something we typically see more frequently with nation-state actors, versus cyber criminals." Known in the security industry variously as Scattered Spider, Muddled Libra, and UNC3944, these hackers were thrust into the limelight earlier this month for breaching the systems of two of the world's largest gambling companies - MGM Resorts and Caesars Entertainment Ltd.

Behind the scenes, it has hit many more companies, according to analysts tracking the intrusions - and cybersecurity specialists expect the attacks to continue.

The FBI is investigating the MGM and Caesars breaches, and the companies did not comment on who may be behind them. From Canada to Japan, the security firm CrowdStrike has tracked 52 attacks globally by the group since March 2022, most of them in the United States, said Adam Meyers, senior vice president of threat intelligence at the company. Google-owned intelligence firm Mandiant, has logged more than 100 intrusions by it in the last two years.

Nearly every industry, from telecommunications to finance, hospitality, and media, has been hit. Reuters was not able to determine how much money the hackers may have extorted.

But it's not just the scale or the breadth of attacks that make this group stand out. They're extremely good at what they do and "ruthless" in their interactions with victims, said Kevin Mandia, Mandiant's founder.

The speed at which they breach and exfiltrate data from company systems can overwhelm security response teams, and they have left threatening notes for staff of victim organizations on their systems, and contacted them by text and email in the past, Mandiant found.

In some cases - Mandia did not say which ones - hackers tied to Scattered Spider placed bogus emergency calls to summon heavily armed police units to the homes of executives of targeted companies.

The technique, called SWATing, "is something that's utterly dreadful to live through as a victim," he said. "I don't even think these intrusions are about money. I think they're about power, influence and notoriety. That makes it harder to respond to."

> **The threat actors have clearly taken our courses that we provide online, they've clearly studied our product and how it works. This is stuff we haven't seen before**
> –David Bradbury, Okta

Reuters couldn't immediately reach the hacking group for comment.

17-22 year olds

There's little detail on Scattered Spider's location or identity. Based on the criminals' chats with victims and clues gleaned from breach investigations, CrowdStrike's Meyers said they are largely 17-22 years-olds. Mandiant estimates they're mainly from Western countries, but it's unclear how many people are involved.

Before calling helpdesks, the hackers acquire employee information including passwords by social engineering, especially 'SIM swapping' - a technique where they trick a telecom company's customer service representative to reassign a specific phone number from one device to another, analysts say.

They also appear to make the effort to study how large organizations work, including their vendors and contractors, to find individuals with privileged access they can target, according to analysts.

That's something David Bradbury, chief security officer of the identity management firm Okta, saw first-hand last month, when he discovered multiple Okta customers – including MGM – breached by Scattered Spider. Okta provides identity services such as multi-factor authentication used to help users securely access online applications and websites.

"The threat actors have clearly taken our courses that we provide online, they've clearly studied our product and how it works," Bradbury said. "This is stuff we haven't seen before."

A larger group named ALPHV said last week it was behind the MGM hack, and analysts believe it provided the software and attack tools for the operation to be carried out by Scattered Spider.

Such collaborations are typical for cybercriminals, said Okta's Bradbury. ALPHV, which according to Mandiant is a "ransomware-as-a-service", would provide services such as a helpdesk, webpage and branding, and in turn get a cut of whatever Scattered Spider would make from the hack.

While many ransomware attacks go unpublicised, the MGM hack was a vivid example of the real-world impact of such incidents. It caused chaos in Las Vegas, as gaming machines stalled and hotel systems were disrupted.

Ransomware gangs often function like large organizations, and continue to evolve their methods to adapt to the latest security measures organizations use.

"In some ways this is just like the age-old game of cat and mouse," said Whitmore, who compared Scattered Spider to Lapsus$, another group behind previous hacks into Okta and the technology giant Microsoft. The British police last year arrested seven people between the ages of 16 and 21 following those hacks. **–Reuters**

BITS & BYTES

Apple mania

Apple registered more than two times sales of its new iPhone 15 series in India on Day 1 from last year across its online and offline channels, industry and retail sources said on Friday.

People bought India-made iPhone 15 along with high-end Pro models at Apple Saket in New Delhi and Apple BKC in Mumbai -- along with at other Apple Authorised resellers stores amid long queues since early morning.

At Apple Delhi and Mumbai retail stores, those who had pre-ordered their iPhones queued up early to get their devices. "It's amazing to be back in India celebrating the launch of our incredible new products with our teams and customers at Apple BKC," said Wendy Beckman, Senior Market Director, EMEIA. **–IANS**

Threads feature

Meta's Twitter (now X) rival Threads has added a feature that will let users switch between multiple accounts without logging out on its app. "Starting today, you can switch between Threads profiles on mobile," the company posted on its official account on Thursday.

Users will need to long press on the profile icon in the bottom right to swap accounts on its apps. They will need to tap on the "Add profile" option after the long press to add a new profile. "Once you're logged in, long press the profile tab again to switch between profiles. And that's it -- post away," the company said. This feature will make it easier for users to switch between work and personal profiles. **–IANS**

Ads thrown in

Amazon Prime Video users will see ads on shows and movies from early next year unless they subscribe for an ad-free tier that would be at a higher cost, the tech giant said on Friday.

Amazon's move follows similar rollouts by rivals Netflix and Walt Disney.

The streaming industry has been facing a slowdown in new sign-ups as subscribers struggling with high inflation and interest rates dial back entertainment spending and other discretionary expenses.

The US tech giant said the advertisements will be introduced in the United States, the UK, Germany and Canada in early 2024, followed by France, Italy, Spain, Mexico and Australia later in the year. Amazon will roll out an ad-free subscription tier for an additional $2.99 per month for U.S. Prime members. **–Reuters**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

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STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

ELEGANT AVIAN

The graceful Grey Wagtail, spotted at Rainbow Drive Layout, Sarjapur Road

The picture was clicked by reader **Chandar Natarajan**

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Kudlu roadwork: Neglected safety, growing concerns

Unfinished road project plagues Kudlu, poses risks to citizens

The ongoing roadwork in Kudlu, Singasandra, has remained incomplete for six months, causing distress among the local population. Despite repeated complaints to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities, the lack of progress on this road has raised serious safety concerns for both commuters and residents. The project was intended to enhance ease of commuting and safety but has transformed into a nightmarish situation for those in the area, as promised development remains elusive. A BM reader said, "Our road (12th Main, A Block, AECS Layout, Kudlu) has been half-finished for over six months now, and it seems that no BBMP officials are concerned about completing it.

This situation is extremely difficult for children and older people navigating these unstable surfaces. Even vehicles like cars and scooters are damaged due to these loose stones. We hope that Bangalore Mirror can take action by engaging with BBMP's higher authorities. It's frustrating to see that they efficiently collect taxes but do not prioritise their work."

Frustrated residents have made continuous efforts to bring this issue to the attention of the BBMP. Regrettably, their appeals for assistance have been ignored, with the authorities failing to acknowledge or address their concerns. The unfinished road project not only disrupts daily life but also endangers the health and well-being of the community.

Citizens say that the roadwork has remained incomplete for six months

> **"It is extremely difficult for children and older people to commute through these unstable surfaces** – A resident

DK Rama Mani, a concerned resident, also highlighted the deplorable condition of the drainage system, compounding the problems. Drains that once efficiently carried water have now been clogged by the soil excavated during the roadworks. This stagnant water has created a breeding ground for diseases like dengue, raising serious health concerns among residents. A senior citizen and long-time resident shared the challenges faced by his family during the rainy season. He said, "Historically, drain blockages have caused our garage to flood, resulting in property damage and significant hardships."

"We, the residents of Kudlu, Singasandra, are requesting BBMP to prioritise their grievances and expedite the completion of the roadworks. This is not just a matter of public safety but also a fundamental aspect of responsible governance that directly impacts the quality of life for its residents. Ignoring these pressing issues is a disservice to the very principles of effective governance", said Mani.

— Sanjana Rao

DID YOU KNOW?

St Mary's Basilica is among the oldest churches in Bangalore and the first church in the state that was elevated to Minor Basilica in 1973 through a proclamation issued by Pope Paul VI. It began as a thatched hut in the 17th century by Tamil Christian migrants. The shrine was then known as the 'Chapel of Kaanike Mathe Devalaya' and was located in the village where distinct white rice was grown. A French priest, Fr Jean Antoine Dubois, built the chapel and offered mass there.
The church was rebuilt during the years 1856 – 1882 in the current form of the majestic gothic style church, an impressive 160 feet tall, credited to Fr. L.E. Kleiner. The church was consecrated on September 8, 1882.
– Francis Vinodh, BM Reader

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

Which is a local delicacy that you would suggest to a visitor from outside to try in the city?

Surendranath, BM Reader
Our city is popularly known for many delicious food items; every district's food varies, but each food item's tastes are unique. When a visitor arrives in Bengaluru, I would suggest Vidyarthi Bhavan restaurant.

Sidharth Kashyap, BM Reader
Mysore pak is among the most loved sweet dishes for hard-core sweet lovers everywhere. Because of its texture and aroma, people will drool over consuming more.

Savitha Murali, BM Reader
I would suggest a visitor go to Bidadi for breakfast. Bidadi is very popular for its soft thatte idli. One of the famous restaurant is Sri Shiva Darshana Shashi Hotel, where soft idli topped with butter gives you the feeling of happiness.

Harinath Babu, BM Reader
Puliyogare Point in Basavanagudi is famous for its puliyogare. Many people from outside the country also visit this restaurant because of its delicious food. The restaurant serves hot vada, sweet pongal, and puliyogare with raitha.

Vijaya Lakshmi, BM Reader
Holige or obattu is yet another delicacy in Karnataka. It is made up of pure ghee, flour, coconut, jaggery, oil, salt and Chana dal (split chickpeas). Hot holige topped with ghee makes people drool over to eat more.

Geetha, BM Reader
On the occasion of the Nagapanchami festival in Karnataka, every house prepares kaya (coconut) kadabu and khara (spicy) kadabu. It is one the best dishes in Karnataka but takes a lot of time to prepare.

SPEAK TO US

How can the government ensure that cyclists are safe in the city?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

HEALTH TIP: Studies reveal that consuming garlic as part of the food or taking garlic extract can help treat blood pressure

Thyme contains a compound that is antispasmodic, helping relax the muscles of the throat

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The DAILY GRIND

Why grinding your teeth might not always be a bad thing

According to the Council of Dentists of Spain, bruxism is the dental diagnosis that has increased the most since the pandemic, almost quadrupling. In fact, its incidence among the population has gone from 6% to 23%.

Whether we are affected or not, we all know what this behaviour basically entails: clenching or grinding one's teeth. But, in recent years, the concept has changed and is now classified into two distinct forms: sleep bruxism and awake bruxism. And they can be approached as two separate phenomena – although the two sometimes appear together.

While the first arises involuntarily while we sleep, the second manifests itself when we are awake. In the latter case, the person may be aware of their behaviour and, thus, stop it.

Two different phenomena

Currently, sleep bruxism is defined as "a masticatory muscle activity during sleep that is characterised as rhythmic (phasic) or non-rhythmic (tonic) and is not a movement disorder or a sleep disorder in otherwise healthy individuals."

Awake bruxism is described as "a masticatory muscle activity during wakefulness that is characterised by repetitive or sustained tooth contact and/or by bracing or thrusting of the mandible and is not a movement disorder in otherwise healthy individuals."

In other words, what we popularly think of as clenching/grinding our teeth when we sleep (either during the night or during the day) would be called sleep bruxism, while jaw clenching, sustained tooth contact, or thrusting when awake would be awake bruxism.

Although the two definitions seem to refer to very similar behaviours, their origin, the way they work, and how they should be approached are different.

In some clinical settings, both types can be considered a risk factor or sign of underlying disease, such as headaches (both common headaches and migraines) or temporomandibular disorders (which affect the jaw joint and the muscles that control its movement). And there is always the possibility that these two varieties of bruxism will have negative consequences: they can cause tooth wear and fractures, as well as muscle or joint pain.

But, what if bruxism were beneficial?

In any case, current research implies another important modification for the conception of bruxism: it is no longer considered a pathology but a mere motor activity. That is to say, it does not have to be harmful in and of itself.

Firstly, a 2020 study concluded that waking bruxism could be a stress release mechanism. And secondly, the variety that occurs while we sleep seems to be related to gastric reflux and obstructive sleep apnoea (pausing in breathing during nightly rest). Some authors hypothesise that it could play a protective role against the effects of both disorders.

The psychological factor

As for the origin of this behaviour, it is still not entirely clear, but risk factors such as alcohol, nicotine, recreational drug use, caffeine, some medicines, anxiety, and stress have been identified. Emotional stress seems to play an important role, especially in awake bruxism. In fact, it is considered the main trigger.

Along these lines, a recent study carried out by researchers from the Faculty of Dentistry of the Complutense University of Madrid compared samples of participants before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the researchers' conclusions, sleep and awake bruxism could be influenced by different levels of anxiety: while the former would be related to passive stress (associated with worry or helplessness), awake bruxism seems to be linked with immediate, daily activities to a greater extent.

In a previous study, that same research team found that teeth grinders who watched stressful negative videos with scenes of pain had greater muscle tension than those who do not typically grind their teeth. This relationship supports the notion of a link between more immediate, daily stress and awake bruxism.

Effective treatments against bruxism

Therefore, and even though awake bruxism can be a release mechanism for stress, grinding one's teeth can be prevented by learning to detect the habit (aiming to reduce the bracing of muscles in the first place) and by subsequently reducing stress levels through techniques for relaxation and coping.

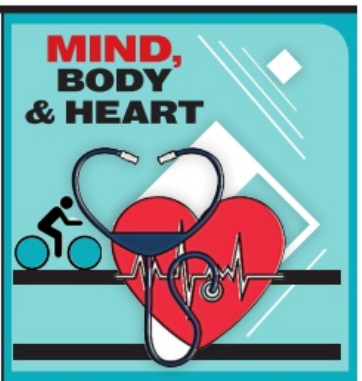
With that in mind, perhaps one of the most effective treatments is biofeedback. This consists of having patients learn to identify and reduce muscle tension by adopting a jaw resting position thanks to the use of an electromyograph, a device that measures the electrical activity of the muscles.

Many people are unaware of the fact that for the jaw to be relaxed and at rest, there should be no contact between the teeth, as can be deduced from the definition listed above. The mere fact of being aware of that and trying to correct it reduces the incidence of bruxism.

Recently, mobile applications have been developed to achieve these two objectives. However, these types of applications are usually not sufficiently optimised and end up being a bit tedious for users.

Perhaps the easiest way to detect if we are clenching our teeth is to put Post-it notes in visible places (computer screens, mirrors, etc.) to act as a reminder. And, since stress is chronically present in our lives, we should regularly undertake relaxation techniques and techniques to control the bracing of jaw muscles – techniques that are simple and easy to fit into our daily routine.

(By Laura Jimenez Ortega, Universidad Complutense de Madrid; Eva Willaert Jimenez-Pajarero, Universitat de Barcelona and María García Gonzalez, Universidad Europea, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Tips to handle insomnia

Make Your Surroundings Sleep-Friendly:
A relaxing atmosphere in the bedroom may help you improve the quality of your sleep. Think about creating a calm resting environment and follow a regular bedtime routine.

Implement Calming Practices:
Utilising relaxation techniques in your bedtime routine will help you fall asleep more quickly by calming your body and mind. A few effective relaxation techniques include deep breathing exercises, progressive muscle relaxation, meditation, and imagery.

Manage stress
There are various techniques for reducing nocturnal stress and anxiety before going to bed. Attempt to resolve any anxieties or worries before going to bed. Finding the source of the stress is the first step in managing it. Examine your physical health and everyday routine carefully. Post identification of the stressors, you can take efforts to mitigate them and improve sleep health.

Limit Blue Light Exposure In The Evening
While being exposed to light during the day is advantageous, doing so at night has the reverse impact. This is because it deceives your brain into believing that it is still daytime thanks to its impact on your circadian rhythm. This lowers the levels of chemicals like melatonin, which promote relaxation and sound sleep. Putting devices away for the evening one hour before bed is a reasonable suggestion to encourage sleep hygiene.

Maintain Sleep Hygiene
Establishing a sleep schedule, adhering to a night-time routine, developing healthy habits, and setting up your bedroom for sleep are all examples of good sleep hygiene. Both the quantity and quality of sleep can be significantly impacted by poor sleep hygiene.

—Femina

Perceived risks, costs biggest stumbling blocks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

buyers, researchers conducted a study on purchase decisions.

The study found that social image was the biggest motivator for the adoption of electric two-wheelers followed by technological enthusiasm. The study notes that early adopters of EVs wanted to showcase a progressive and environmentally conscious self-image and perceive themselves as trendsetters influencing the decisions of others.

It also found that technologically enthusiastic people were found to be more open to buying e-two-wheelers. Their 'innate curiosity, receptiveness to novel technology, and eagerness to explore new solutions' influenced their decisions.

Risks perceived

However, the study also found that perceived risks such as EVs catching fire and perceived fees also negatively impact the purchase decision. However, technological enthusiasm also helped buyers avoid the barrier of higher price points as they see the electric two-wheelers having multiple benefits.

Perceived monetary benefits from saving on fuel and environmental benefits from reducing Co2 emissions also led to a positive influence on buyer decisions.

However, it also found that perceived risks played a greater role than perceived fees in making purchase decisions.

As per the conclusions of the study, educated men were more likely to purchase electric two-wheelers.

Perceived risks can be the liability and safety concerns of EVs. A larger awareness of the technological and environmental benefits can boost adoption rates

– Furqan A Bhat, researcher, IISc

During the study, the researchers also found that the lack of charging infrastructure did not have any direct impact on adopting electric two-wheelers. With smaller batteries as compared to electric four-wheelers, they are easier to charge at home and consume less electric power.

The researchers conclude that marketing strategies for electric two-wheelers should portray a 'green image', and technological advancement lifetime cost of the vehicles against the upfront cost of EV vehicle purchase.

On a policy level, governments need to alleviate the perceived risks and fees. While batteries form the bulk of the cost of EV purchases, provision must be made for a subscription model for batteries.

The government can reduce the perceived risks by creating stringent battery standards, noted the study.

"We wanted to look at the factors under product features. Perceived risks are one of the biggest barriers to adoption. Perceived risks can be the liability and safety concerns of EVs. A larger awareness of the technological and environmental benefits can boost adoption rates.

While the actual price point cannot be lowered, attempts to sell vehicles without batteries could help in this regard. The perceived risks of two-wheelers also translated to four-wheelers as well," said Bhat, one of the researchers.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rinku Mistry alias Ritwika Mistry D/o Manoranjan Mistry R/o Ambika Homes,Flat No. 202,2nd Floor,Ashraya Layout, 6th Cross, 2nd Stage, Doddanakundi, Bangalore, Permanent Address–Lingaraj Nagar, P.O.Irrigation Colony,Ps Jeypore, Dist. Koraput, Odisha –764004,have changed my name to Ritwika Mistry

I Gulam Rasul Mohammad Rafi Shaikh R/o #26, Sathnur baglur post bangalore north 562149 have changed my name to Gulam Rasul shaikh, vide affidavit dated 21.09.2023 before Notary P.N.Nagesha Bangalore

I, Rana Sabestian Residing at No 198. 4th Main, 2nd Cross, Coffee Board Layout, Kempapura, Hebbal, Bangalore-560024 have changed my name to RANA SABASTIAN HEMBROM vide affidavit dated: 19.09.2023 Sworn before notary: D.Sarala Kumari, Bangalore

I, Radhapyari Sougrakpam D/o S.Ibochouba Singh resident of #4,Flat 14,3rd flr Ejipura 10th cross, Bangalore-47 have changed my name to Kiara Sougrakpam D.o.b 29.03.1984 vide affidavit no. IN-KA89626495535865V Dtd 10.09.2023, Notary AS Narayana Reddy.

I, Sheela Milca Alexander Residing at No 204, 1st Floor, 7th Cross, Pillanna Garden 1st Stage, St Thomas Town, Bangalore-560084 have changed my name to SHEELA MILCA vide affidavit dated: 19.09.2023 Sworn before notary: D.Sarala Kumari, Bangalore

I, Arun Kumar Francis S/o. Francis Kodical Residing at No. 5, Rangappa Layout, T C Palya, K R Puram, Bangalore-560036 have changed my name to ARUNKUMAR S/o. FRANCIS vide affidavit dated: 22.09.2023 Sworn before notary: D.Sarala Kumari, Bangalore

I, Nethravathy Govinda R/o No.92/1, 11th cross, Vidyapeeta Road, Kengeri, Bengaluru 560060 have changed my name to Nethravathi Singatagere Devegowda affidavit Dt.22/09/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Doddabasappa S/o Erappa Talavageri R/o Arhal Post, Gangavathi Taluk, Koppal Dist, Karnataka, 583235,have changed my name to Doddabasappa Talavageri

I, Ashok Kumar Chandre S/o Mangilal Chandre R/o No.56, 1st floor, Kempegowda Nagara Honnaganahatti, Tavarekere, B'luru 562130 have changed my name to Ashok Chandre affidavit Dt.22/09/2023 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Mohana Sundaram Chokkanathan R/o 565/1, 5th cross, HMT layout, Nagasandra, Bengaluru 560073 have changed my name to Mohan Chokkanathan affidavit Dt.22/09/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, MAMATHA MUNIREDDY, Residing at No. 9/1, 3rd Cross, 2nd Main, Hongasandra, Bengaluru-560068, have changed my name to MAMATHA SRINIVASA REDDY, vide affidavit dated: 22.09.2023 before Notary V. Rajashekhara, Bengaluru.

I, Prathviraja Shetty S/o Balakrishna Shetty, R/at # 40 2nd Cross, I S E C Main road, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore North 560072, have changed my name to Prathviraj Shetty for all purposes.

I, Jolly Nimish Soni D/o Bhupendrabhai K Rajpara R/o Apt no.17305, Prestige Lakeside Habitat, Varthur Road, Gunjur, Bengaluru 560087 have changed my name to JOLLY SONI, Affidavit Dt.22/09/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Mahanaj Tarnum W/O, Sabir Khan R/o #27/3, 3rd Floor, 4th Cross, Anepalya, B'lore-560030 have changed my name to Mahanaj Khan for all purposes.

I, KAILASH RAWAL, Residing at No 65/22, 5th Cross, 8th Main, 1st Block, Jayanagar Byrasandra, Bangalore-560011. Have changed My name to KAILASH BAHADUR RAWAL vide affidavit dated 14/09/2023 before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Chinmaya Basanta Kar, s/o Basanta Kumar Kar, r/o H-1503, Godrej Air, Hoodi Main Road, Seetharampalya, Hoodi, Bengaluru, 560048 have changed my name to Chinmaya Kar.

I Sabir Anwar Khan S/o Anwar Khan R/o #27/3, 3rd Flr, 4th Cross, Anepalya B'lore-560030 have changed my name to Sabir Khan for all purposes.

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Canada didn't act against Nijjar despite being informed about his involvement in murder, terror acts: Sources

No accreditation to Arunachal athletes: India slams China

Sports Minister Thakur cancels visit in protest; MEA calls it pre-meditated

#NEW DELHI

Union sports minister Anurag Thakur on Friday cancelled his visit to China as a mark of protest to Beijing's denial of accreditation to three sportspersons from Arunachal Pradesh for participation in the Hangzhou Asian Games with New Delhi describing the Chinese action as discriminatory and against the spirit of the sporting event.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India lodged a strong protest with China and asserted that New Delhi reserves the right to take "suitable measures" to safeguard its interests.

Describing the Chinese action as targeting of the sportspersons in a "pre-meditated" manner, Bagchi said it violates both the spirit of the Asian Games and the rules governing their conduct as they "explicitly prohibits discrimination" against competitors from member states.

The three women wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh couldn't travel to Hangzhou as they were not provided the required accreditation by Chinese authorities.

India's Chef-de-mission for the Asian Games Bhupendra Singh Bajwa with Indian athletes during the Welcome Ceremony for Team India at the 19th Asian Games

Bagchi said a "strong protest" has been lodged in New Delhi and Beijing against China's "deliberate and selective obstruction" of some of India's sportspersons.

The Chinese action came amid the lingering border row between the two countries in eastern Ladakh.

"The government of India has learnt that the Chinese authorities have, in a targeted and pre-meditated manner, discriminated against some of the Indian sportspersons from the state of Arunachal Pradesh by denying them accreditation and entry to the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China," Bagchi said.

"In line with our long-standing and consistent position, India firmly rejects differential treatment of Indian citizens on the basis of domicile or ethnicity. Arunachal Pradesh was, is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India," he said.

Bagchi said India reserves the right to take "suitable measures to safeguard our interests".

"China's action violates both the spirit of the Asian Games and the rules governing their conduct, which explicitly prohibits discrimination against competitors from member states," he said.

Asked about the three wushu players not being able to participate in the Asian Games, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a media briefing in Beijing that the Chinese government has never "recognised" Arunachal Pradesh. **–PTI**

Communal slurs: Ali calls it 'hate speech', Oppn backs BSP MP

#NEW DELHI

BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri speaks in the Lok Sabha during a special session of Parliament, in New Delhi, on Friday

The outrage over BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri's derogatory remarks in Lok Sabha against BSP's Danish Ali mounted on Friday with INDIA bloc parties rallying behind Ali who demanded that the matter be referred to the privileges committee and asserted that if action is not taken, he could consider quitting the membership of the House.

With the BJP MP facing flak from various quarters, the BJP issued a show cause notice to Bidhuri for his use of objectionable words against Ali in Lok Sabha during a discussion on the Chandrayaan mission's success on Thursday.

Amid calls by several opposition parties for Bidhuri's suspension from Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla took "serious note" of Bidhuri's comments and warned him of "strict action" if such behaviour is repeated in the future.

Several opposition parties rallied behind Ali with Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary K C Venugopal visiting the BSP leader and expressing solidarity with him. Later in a tweet, Gandhi posted pictures with Ali and said, "Nafrat ke bazaar mein mohabbat ki dukaan (shop for spreading love in market of hate)."

Congress' leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, TMC's Aparupa Poddar, DMK's Kanimozhi and NCP leader Supriya Sule wrote to Birla over the issue and demand that the matter be sent to the privileges committee.

A day after Bidhuri's remarks, Ali described these as "hate speech" and demanded the suspension of the ruling party's lawmaker from the House.

"This is nothing less than hate speech. This is hate speech on the floor of the House. Hate speeches were being made outside Parliament but now hate speech has been delivered on the floor of the House by a BJP MP," he told PTI.

Asked what he would do if action was not taken against Bidhuri, Ali said, "I expect that the speaker will take action on this. But if action is not taken, then with a heavy heart, I can consider quitting the membership of this House."

Meanwhile, officials said taking "serious note" of Bidhuri's remarks, Birla warned the Lok Sabha member from South Delhi of "strict action" if such behaviour was repeated. **–PTI**

EVM source code audit: SC refuses to entertain PIL

#NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking directions to the Election Commission of India for an independent audit of source code governing the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

"What is the material before us to doubt it?," asked a bench headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud to the petitioner-in-person, a Mumbai-based lawyer Sunil Ahya.

The petitioner told the bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, that he had filed RTI application and his multiple representations to the Election Commission for setting up standards to carry out audit of source code of all EVMs also remained unanswered.

"They have not followed or disclosed any particular standard. Any audit to be of a meaning has to be as per a recognised standard. The source code is the brain of the EVM system. It is about survival of democracy," he submitted.

He added that in the international system, such audit reports are available in public domain but in India EVM source codes are not being independently audited or have hash function signatures.

At this, the court remarked: "It should not be in public domain as there could be a danger that it could be subject to misuse."

"Presently, the petitioner has placed no actionable material on record to indicate that the Election Commission has breached its constitutional mandate," it said in its order. **–IANS**

ONLY ONE ASTRONAUT IS LEFT STRANDED ON THE MOON
THE MOON
KOREAN (WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
IMAX
IN CINEMAS NOW
PVR · INOX
NEXUS MALL Koramangala, 12:55 p.m. | VR MALL Whitefield Road, 1:25 p.m.

FARNAZ

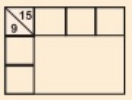
FARNAZ

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

2^40 + 2^40 + 2^40 + 2^40 = 8^x
x = ?

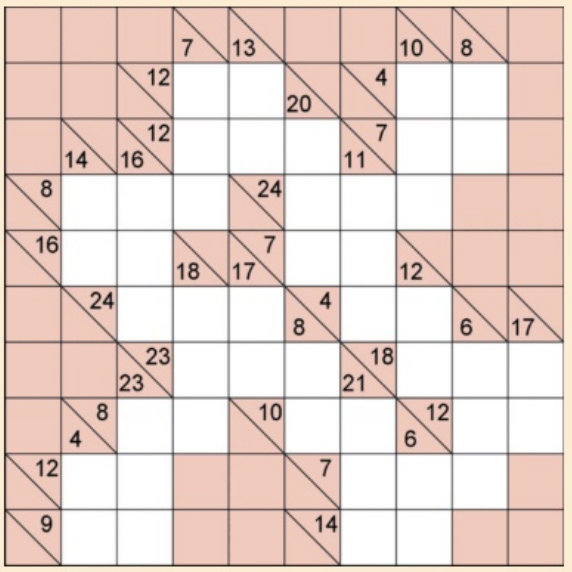
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

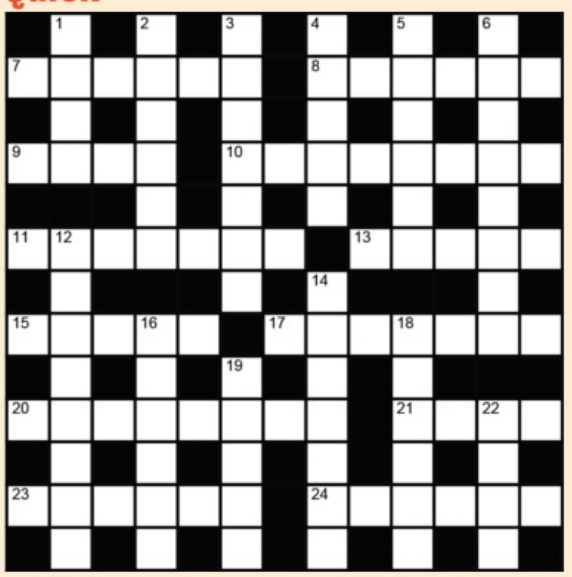


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Made dirty; smeared or stained with dirt (6)
8 Strand (6)
9 WWI German admiral (4)
10 A very young bird (8)
11 Slander (7)
13 Eagle's nest (5)
15 Jammed (5)
17 Hypersensitivity to a specific substance (7)
20 ___ in : tinkering with, perhaps? (8)
21 Occupied (4)
23 Farther or yonder (6)
24 Boredom (6)

DOWN

1 Illegal seizure of power (4)
2 Sheep's coat (6)
3 Strangeness or peculiarity (7)
4 Collect (5)
5 Umbrella (6)
6 Echoing or uttering, in a way ? (8)
12 ___ at : located at? (8)
14 Comes down, as of a bird (7)
16 Park spanning 300 acres in the Cantonment Area (6)
18 Fixes in something solid (6)
19 Varieties (5)
22 Acrid or sullen (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: J EQUALS S

JMRRAJJ CJ PYAT KASJCJ-FATRA OAAFJ KSAKNSNFCWT.

Linemaro

You are the gravy to my mashed potatoes

Mindchow

Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose

Joke of the day

The dyslexic devil worshipper sold his soul to Santa

Loop

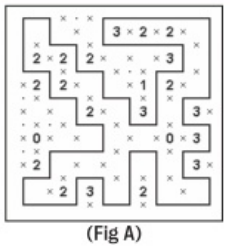
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

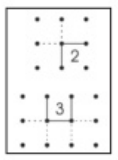
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

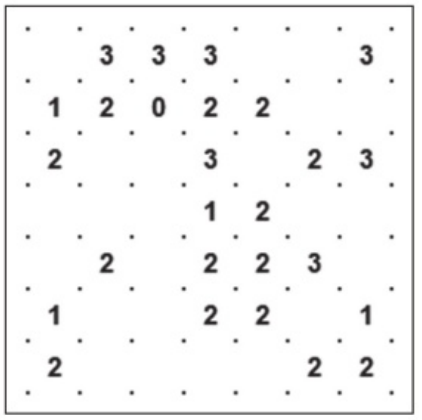
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



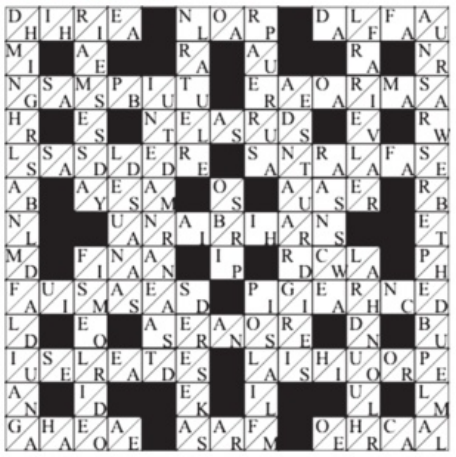
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



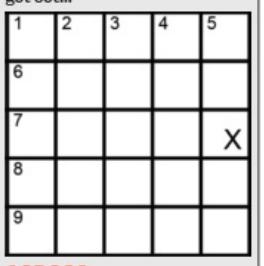
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

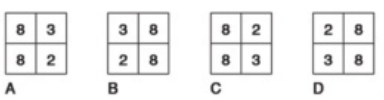
1 Has Br; 6 To let;
7 Tux an; 8 A veer;
9 Robed

DOWN

1 Rub LB; 2 No ore;
3 At art; 4 Vesta;
5 He Dex

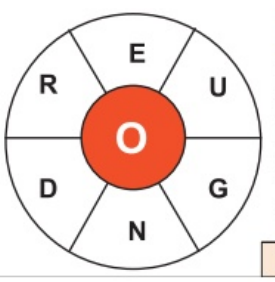
Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing section?



3	9	1	2	8	3
9	?	?	2	1	9
1	?	?	3	9	1
2	1	9	3	8	2
8	3	9	1	2	8
3	8	2	1	9	3

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

16 Average; **18** Good; **20** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

5		4				9		
	3	1			8		4	
8	7							
			8	9		5	7	
2				3				4
	5	9		1	2			
							2	9
	2		5			4	8	
		8				6		1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7
3 5 7 8

Medium = 23
4 5 6 6

Hard = 5
4 6 8 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Burn mark on shirt is larger. 2. Bottom of shirt is different. 3. Laundry basket is different. 4. Iron cord is moved. 5. Box on shelf is different. 6. Shelf bracket is moved.

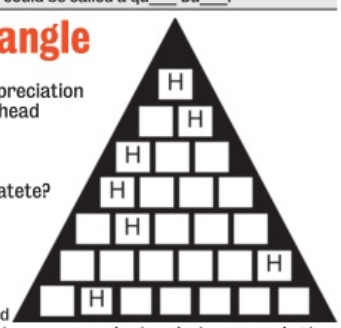
Riddler

In each sentence below, two words are incomplete. The two words end in the same three letters, so they look like they should rhyme, but they don't. See if you can figure out the missing letters in each sentence. Example: One symptom of bronchitis is a ro___ co___. (The two words are: rough & cough.)

1. I was in the l___ until I tripped and ended up d___ last.
2. I cr___ the last time I sk___ because I broke a leg.
3. We want to know wh___ book you ch___ for the award.
4. A particular fast car could be called a qu___ Bu___.

Alpha triangle

1 8th letter
2 Expression of appreciation
3 Covering for the head
4 Warmth
5 Defraud
6 Disengage
7 Had a cosy tete-atete?



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

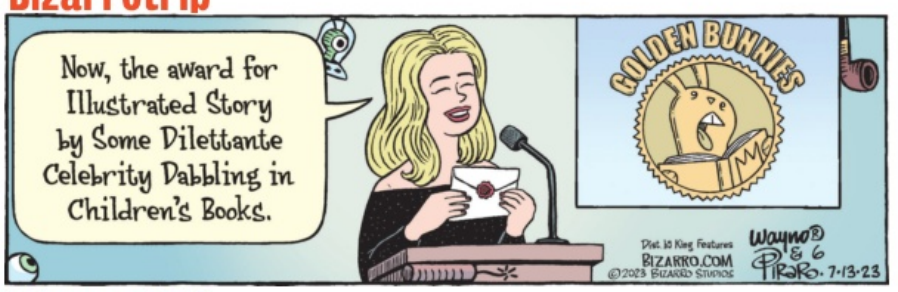
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

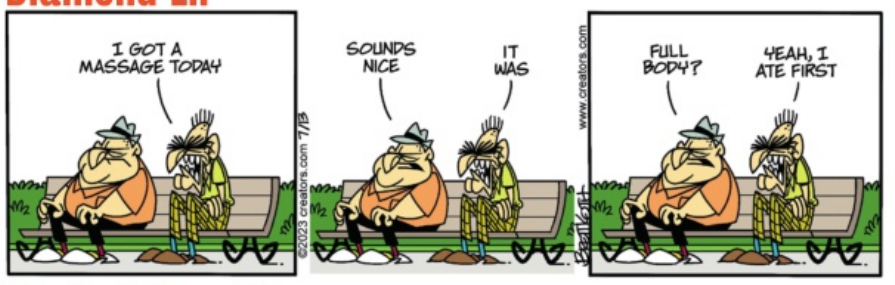
Redeye by Mel Casson

6-29
WHAT'S THAT STRANGE-LOOKING THING?
POP
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A BOTTLE OPENER!
I THINK I'VE DISCOVERED WHY MY DENTURES KEEP BREAKING

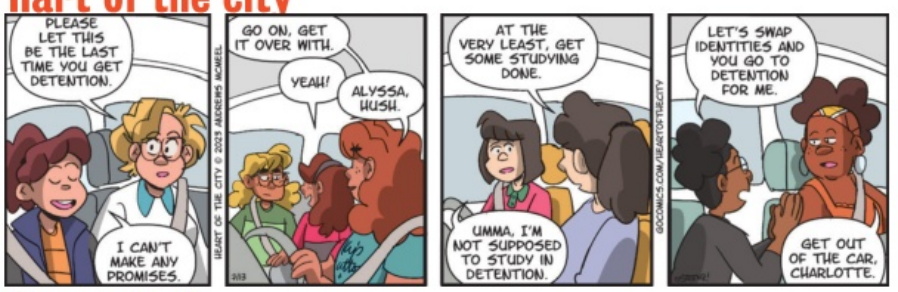
Bizarrotrip


Now, the award for Illustrated Story by Some Dilettante Celebrity Dabbling in Children's Books.
GOLDEN BUNNIES
BIZARRO.COM
Wayno & Piraro 7-13-23

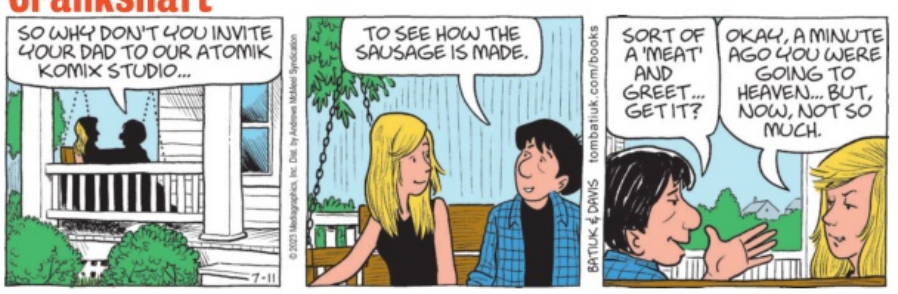
Diamond Lil



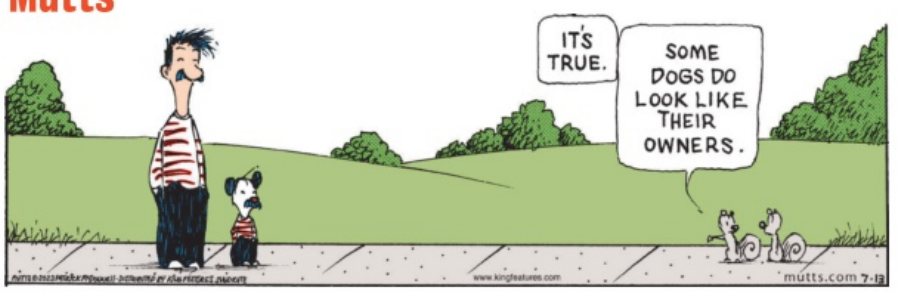
Hart of the city


PLEASE LET THIS BE THE LAST TIME YOU GET DETENTION.
I CAN'T MAKE ANY PROMISES.
GO ON, GET IT OVER WITH.
YEAH!
ALYSSA, HUSH.
AT THE VERY LEAST, GET SOME STUDYING DONE.
UMMA, I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO STUDY IN DETENTION.
LET'S SWAP IDENTITIES AND YOU GO TO DETENTION FOR ME.
GET OUT OF THE CAR, CHARLOTTE.

Crankshaft


SO WHY DON'T YOU INVITE YOUR DAD TO OUR ATOMIK KOMIX STUDIO...
TO SEE HOW THE SAUSAGE IS MADE.
SORT OF A 'MEAT' AND GREET... GET IT?
OKAY, A MINUTE AGO YOU WERE GOING TO HEAVEN... BUT, NOW, NOT SO MUCH.
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your hard work may pay you in terms of success. You may plan to go for a short work-related visit. Your subordinates may support you in implementing your business plans. Your opponents may praise your hard work. You may hear good news in terms of siblings.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today may have good vitality and inner strength. You may make good plans and implement them efficiently. But you might carefully read documents before putting in a signature. Due to being over-enthusiastic, you may invest some capital into the family business.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is not a good day due to anxiety and restlessness. You may waste your precious time doing worthless tasks. You may visit some religious places to seek peace of mind. You may get advice from your elders, showing you some direction to manage the messy situation.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, social get-together, you will re-establish your network, which will give you benefits in the near future. Natives related to glamour, art, and fashion will plan to do something new regarding their profession. Students will perform better today in terms of study. Love birds will enjoy their happy moments.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be busy on the work front, making you tired and unable to make proper time for your family get-together. You can also create some overseas networks. You should be careful in terms of investments. Natives in the job may get a promotion.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, the situation is under control now. Your destiny may likely be with you in terms of gains in business. You may get some rewards for your hard work. It may be a good time to reinitiate your postponed projects. You may expect peaceful religious travel. You can also donate some amount to any religious place or charity.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be able to control your expenditures on worthless stuff. You may plan to invest capital in the business. You may invest your savings into some real estate projects, which will boost your financial health in the near future. You may be polite to others. You may be able to focus on domestic affairs, but your spouse will become upset or have health issues.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, your moon is not in a good position; you may have health issues. You may face losses in the business or investment. It is advised not to invest in the business. Your gains will convert into losses. So, you are advised to stop making investments in worthless objects. You should avoid being involved in controversies; otherwise, it will pull you down negatively.

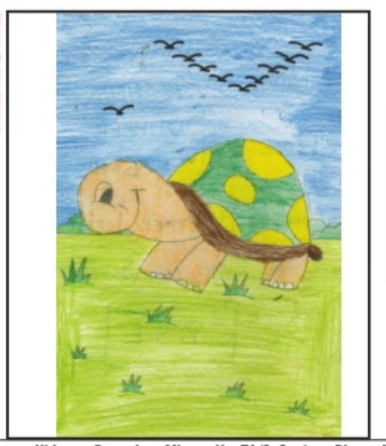
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You are blessed by the moon today. You may expect to hear some good news regarding your profession. Domestic life may likely be in full swing of joy. You are advised to avoid making arguments on worthless topics. Over-excitement may test your patience. You can make important decisions in making investments in real estate. Students will be focused on their studies.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You will feel dull, but you may get back to your work. You may pay extra attention to kid's academics. You may likely be in the winning position against your enemies and opponents. Investors should be careful while making difficult decisions. Job seekers may find suitable jobs.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may find negative vibrations around you, which may make you unhappy, so you should avoid investing in worthless assets. You may notice that friends may not be supportive today. So you should not expect more from them for help; otherwise, it may upset you. You should make independent decisions today.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel dull. You may face obstacles in your work front. You should keep patience in making investments. Quick decisions in business are not advisable today. You will likely spend money on worthless stuff, which may make your family unhappy.

KIDZONE



V Aishna V Sudher, 10 Years, Mother Teresa Public School

Adith S, 8 Yeras, Jain Heritage School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
4 . (2.40) = 8.x
2.2 . 2.40 = (2.3).x
2.2+40 = 2.3x
2.42 = 2.3x
42 = 3x
1/3 × 42 = 1/3 × 3x
14 = x; x = 14

BULL'S EYE
deer, done, dour, drone, ergo, gone, goner, gore, gored, gourd, ground, rogue, ogre, redo, rode, node, ogre, redo, round, UNDERGO, undo

QUOTE UNCODE
Success is when persistence meets preparation.

FAST FIVE

B	O	R	E	D
R	E	A	V	E
U	N	T	A	X
L	O	T	T	E
B	R	A	S	H

STRIKE OUT

G	H	E	E	S	A	M	O	R	A	L				
N		D		K		L		U		L				
I	S	L	E	T	S		A	S	H	O	R	E		
L		O		S	E	N	S	E		D		B		
F	U	S	S	E	D		P	I	E	R	C	E		
D		I		N		I		R	C	A		H		
A		Y	E	A		O		U	A	E		R		
L	A	D	D	E	R		S	T	R	A	F	E		
H		E		N	E	A	R	S		V		W		
G	A	M	B	I	T		R	E	A	R	M	S		
I		E		A		U		A		N				
H	I	R	E		L	A	P		A	L	F	A		

QUICK

		D		N		S		S		S		R		
	B	E	Y	O	N	D		T	E	D	I	U	M	
		T		B		N		H		E		O		
	D	A	B	B	L	I	N	G		B	U	S	Y	
		U		O		K		I		M				
S	T	U	C	K		A	L	L	E	G	R	Y		
		I		S				A		N				
A	S	P	E	R	S	E		E	Y	R	I	E		
		C				E		S		L				
S	P	E		N	E	S	T	L	I	N	G			
		U		E		D		A		O		U		
S	O	I	L	E	D		M	A	R	O	O	N		
	C		F		O		A		B		S			

MENSA PUZZLE
B: start at the bottom left-hand corner square and work along the bottom row, then back along the next row etc, repeating the numbers 38219

RIDDLER
1. lead dead,
2. cried skied,
3. whose chose,
4. quick Buick

SUDOKU

5	6	4	3	2	7	9	1	8
9	3	1	6	5	8	2	4	7
8	7	2	9	4	1	3	6	5
4	1	3	8	9	6	5	7	2
2	8	6	7	3	5	1	9	4
1	2	7	5	6	9	4	8	3
6	4	5	1	8	3	7	2	9
7	5	9	4	1	2	8	3	6
3	9	8	2	7	4	6	5	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
H, Ah, Hat, Heat, Cheat, Detach, Chatted.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 – 8 + 5 + 3 = 7
Medium
6 x 4 – 6 + 5 = 23
Hard
6 + 8 – 4 – 5 = 5

LOOP

KAKURO

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TALE OF LOVE

Director SR Patil's latest film 'Olave Mandara 2' deserves applause for an engaging script, particularly the intriguing climax—the movie is not a direct sequel to the well-known Kannada movie 'Olave Mandara' released in 2011.

The movie introduces Druthi (Anupa Satiah), an employee at a software company, preparing in front of a mirror. At the same time, her friends eagerly press her to reveal details about her lover, Arya (Sanath). As she recounts her attempts to grow closer to Arya and his continuous efforts to maintain distance, questions arise about why Arya rejected her proposal.

The narrative unfolds through flashbacks, illustrating Arya's joyful life with family and friends in his hometown. His story takes a turn when he falls in love with MLA Rajanna's daughter, Bhoomi (Prajna Bhatt), leading to tragic consequences that shape the events of 'Olave Mandara 2'.

Director SR Patil struggles to translate its potential on-screen despite a compelling script. The film grapples with excessive dialogues and dull conversations between the protagonist and his friends. Sanath attempts to showcase his acting skills, although his character's portrayal falls short. Prajna Bhatt and Anupama Satish, portraying the heroines, exhibit charm but struggle to match up to the hero's presence. Bhavya, who played the role of the hero's mother, offers commendable support. Dingri Nagaraj, as Live Lingappa, adds a touch of comedy.

However, the film falls short in terms of music and cinematography. In conclusion, 'Olave Mandara 2' is a watchable choice for those seeking entertainment with limited options. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

OLAVE MANDARA 2

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** S R Patil
- **ACTORS** Sanath, Prajna Bhatt, Anupa Satish, Bhavya Dingri Nagaraj
- **Duration** 110 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

Royal Udaipur wedding

Parineeti Chopra is all set for her big fat traditional wedding

Parineeti Chopra, Raghav Chadha have reached Udaipur with family and friends well in time for their big fat traditional wedding. While the couple's haldi ceremony will take place on Saturday, the mehendi ceremony will take place in the evening on Friday. Family and close friends will be attending the ceremony. Parineeti's sister, Priyanka Chopra, is expected to arrive for the pre-wedding festivities; however, there is no confirmation.

Parineeti and Raghav shipped as Ragneeti will have their wedding procession on September 24. The baraat will begin from Hotel Taj situated in the middle of Lake Pichola. Reportedly, the procession will take place on a boat and reach Hotel Leela nearby.

On Friday, Parineeti and Raghav arrived in Udaipur amidst dhol beats. Several pictures and videos of the couple from the airports went viral on social media. Parineeti was spotted at the Udaipur airport as she waved to her fans outside. Parineeti looked charring in a red jumpsuit with a pink shawl and sunglasses.

Raghav was seen wearing a white T-shirt paired with a black sweater, denims and shoes. On Wednesday, there was a Sufi night hosted for close friends and family members. Priyanka's mother, Madhu Chopra and brother, Siddharth, were at the function organised at Raghav's residence in Delhi. Former Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh also attended the pre-wedding function.

The wedding will take place at the Taj Lake on September 24.

—ETimes

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